

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 SCCT-01 ACDA-05 AF-06 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /089 W
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O 271110Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8777

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1802

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. KHADDAM AND JAMIL LEFT FOR DAMASCUS YESTERDAY AFTER ATTENDING LARGE MEETING OF MOSLEM LEADERS HOSTED BY DRUZE SHEIKH AKL. SYRIANS SAID THEY WERE GOING TO GO HOME TO GET SOME REST, BUT IT IS CLEAR FROM PRESS AND OTHER ACCOUNTS THAT THEY HAVE PUT PRESSURE ON FRANGIE TO OVERCOME OBJECTIONS FROM CHAMOUN ON EXPANSION OF GOVERNMENT. GEMAYEL SEEMS UNDECIDED STILL, SO THAT SYRIANS WOULD BE EXPECTING FRANGIE TO MANAGE THIS. MEANWHILE, CHAMOUN HAS GOTTEN GEMAYEL TO JOIN HIM IN SUGGESTING THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE BAD IDEA IF JUMBLATT WOULD JOIN CABINET OF "GIANTS". IDEA PROBABLY IS THAT GEMAYEL
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WOULD ALSO JOIN IN THAT CASE. STILL SOME NEGOTIATING

TO BE DONE ON THIS ISSUE.

2. AFTER MEETING OF MOSLEM LEADERS IMAM MOUSA SADR ANNOUNCED PROBLEM OF "RENEGADE" LEBANESE ARMY HAS BEEN RESOLVED AND KHATIB'S FOLLOWERS WILL BE REINTEGRATED INTO ARMY AS WELL AS KHATIB HIMSELF. WHILE EVERYBODY AGREES ON THE INTEGRATION OF FOLLOWERS, SUCH PRESURE TO REINTEGRATE KHATIB IS LIKELY TO CREATE A DONNYBROOK AS MANY ARMY LEADERS WILL BE ADAMANT AGAINST SUCH A MOVE. WE SUSPECT IT WILL NOT COME TO THAT AND SYRIAN PLAN TO GET KHATIB OUT OF THE COUNTRY WILL PREVAIL

3. INCIDENTS IN BEIRUT YESTERDAY HAD APPEARANCE FOR THE MOST PART OF NORMAL CRIMES AIMED AT ROBBERY, ETC. ZUHAIR MOHSEN WARNED AGAINST LARGE NUMBER OF KIDNAPPINGS AND ROBBERIES IN THE COURSE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE YESTERDAY WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY KHADDAM AND GEMAYEL. IN SHORT, SYRIANS ARE CONTINUING INSIST THAT SOME SORT OF ENLARGED LEBANESE GOVERNMENT BE FORMED SO THAT LEBANESE SECURITY CAN BE LOOKED AFTER BY LEBANESE SECURITY FORCES WITHOUT OBVIOUS INTERVENTION FROM SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

4. FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF MURDER OF MAROUF SAAD WAS HELD IN SIDON YESTERDAY. DESPITE ADVANCE RUMORS THAT TROUBLESOME DEMONSTRATION MIGHT TAKE PLACE, PALESTINIANS AND OTHERS WHO ATTENDED DID SO QUIETLY AND THERE WAS NOT DISTURBANCE OT THE PEACE.

5. UNLESS DEPT. OBJECTS, I PROPOSE TO MAKE THIS THE LAST REGULAR 0900 REPORT, KEEPING OPEN THE OPTION OF REVIVING IT REGULARLY OR SENDING SUCH REPORTS FROM TIME TO TIME IF SITUATION LATER WARRANTS. RETURN OF GALLAGHER AND DYKES REINFORCES OUR HOPE THAT WE MAY HAVE TURNED A CORNER IN LEBANESE SECURITY SITUATION. DESPITE CONTINUING INSECURITY HERE, PARTICULARLY AT NIGHT, CHANCES OF ANY GENERALIZED FIGHTING BREAKING OUT IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE SEEM TO HAVE PRETTY WELL DISAPPEARED.
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